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UNCLAS ROME 000432

SIPDIS

FROM U.S. MISSION IN ROME

WHITE HOUSE FOR THE PRESIDENT  
NSC FOR ABANBURY AND JDWORKIN  
STATE FOR IO/EDA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [AORC](#) [NSC](#)

SUBJECT: LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT FROM AMBASSADOR TONY P.  
HALL

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT DATED  
FEBRUARY 4, 2003 FROM TONY P. HALL, AMBASSADOR, U.S.  
MISSION TO THE UN AGENCIES, ROME. BEGIN QUOTE:

THE PRESIDENT  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20500

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION TO  
FEEDING THE HUNGRY AND HELPING THOSE LESS FORTUNATE. MY  
WHOLE STAFF AND I WERE GREATLY ENCOURAGED BY YOUR STATEMENT  
IN THE STATE OF THE UNION ABOUT HOW GENEROUS AMERICA IS IN  
FEEDING THE WORLD. IT IS SOMETHING I SAY ALL THE TIME.  
AS YOU KNOW, YOUR PROPOSAL FOR A FAMINE FUND AND THE  
EMERGENCY PLAN FOR AIDS RELIEF COULD NOT COME AT A BETTER  
TIME. MORE THAN 38 MILLION PEOPLE ARE THREATENED BY  
STARVATION IN AFRICA ALONE, AND THAT SITUATION IS EVEN MORE  
COMPLEX BECAUSE OF THE AIDS PANDEMIC. IN ALL OF MY YEARS  
WORKING TO FIGHT HUNGER, I HAVE NEVER SEEN SO MANY SERIOUS  
CRISES DEMANDING SO MUCH ASSISTANCE AT ONCE. I AM HEADED  
BACK TO ETHIOPIA WHERE I EXPECT TO FIND CHILDREN STARVING,  
AS I DID WHEN I WENT IN 1984.

I KNOW THERE ARE MANY THINGS THAT DEMAND YOUR TIME AND  
ATTENTION, BUT I WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I  
APPRECIATE YOUR HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO  
DO OUR BEST TO PUT INTO ACTION AMERICA'S COMMITMENT TO  
ALLEVIATE HUNGER AND BUILD HOPE, THROUGH COMMUNICATING AND  
DEMONSTRATING AMERICA'S COMPASSION FOR PEOPLE IN NEED.

WHILE I HOPE THAT OUR ALLIES IN THE G-8 RESPOND TO YOUR  
INITIATIVE AND CREATE OTHER FAMINE FUNDS, EVEN IF YOU DON'T  
GET CREDIT ON EARTH, YOU WILL IN HEAVEN.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR ALL THAT YOU'RE DOING ON BEHALF OF THE  
POOR AND HUNGRY. GOD BLESS.

SINCERELY, TONY P. HALL AMBASSADOR. END QUOTE.

2. ORIGINAL SIGNED LETTER WILL FOLLOW.  
HALL

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